UNITARIAN FOR THE MINISTRY

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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 404. JUNE, 1940.

COURAGE. ENERGY. CONFIDENCE.

Ps. PXVII., 14—**"Be of good courage, He shall strengthen thine heart."**

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NOTES AND NEWS.

June opens with the Sunday-school Conference, at Larne, on the first, at 3-30 p.m. That is always one of the best attended of the big meetings. The Synod Meetings are on June 18th and 19th, the particulars of which are announced elsewhere. This year, as special lecturer, we welcome our historian of Irish Presbyterianism, whose articles are familiar to our readers,—H. J. F. Orr, Esq.

* * *

There may be very few among us, who have had the acquaintance of an ex-Sunday-school master. Sunday-school teachers and superintendents we may know very well; but, one who was a Sunday-school master would be rarely met with. But Sunday-schools in their beginning were the fore-runners of the Elementary Schools in England. When quite young children were sent to work in mines and factories, for many this was the only type of education possible. Adults as well as juveniles attended these schools, to learn the three Rs, and in the Sunday-school processions in Whit-week, in Lancashire (which this year for war-reasons may have been suspended,) the range was from tiny-tots to octogenarians. In Lancashire, the Sunday-school is a big thing, and a minister there must be a Sunday-school man. The Rev. J. Freeston, father of the late Rev. Frank Freeston, for many years the popular and influential minister of Essex Church, London, was one of the Old Guard, and before the days of South Kensington Departments, with their awards of "Science Certificates," he was a Science Teacher in higher grade schools in the Manchester district. His name remains a household word, even to-day. He was a devoted and enthusiastic teacher and in Staleybridge, the large, well-equipped schools, which his enterprise secured, and which were attached to the Unitarian Church of which he was the Minister, remain as a monument to the work he had at heart.

* * *

Outside Essex Church, London, is the statue of a scholar seated with his slate, a reminder that Theophulus Lindsey, its first Minister, and the first to call himself a Unitarian, was the founder of the Sunday-schools. Robert Raikes of Gloucester, is generally accredited as the founder; but, independently of Raikes, Theophilus Lindsey was the real founder of such Sunday-schools.

* * *

One by one the countries of the finest and noblest peoples in the world are being invaded, without doubt the ultimate aim being to crush our own country. The malignity of the attacks bear the hall-mark of what Saint Paul described as "the powers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places."

* * *

The printer has notified the Magazine Committee of the rapidly rising price of paper. After careful consideration, we have decided, until further notice, to continue to issue the Magazine at its present price; our printer has been very moderate in his increased charge to us, and we are grateful for his kind and helpful consideration.

* * *

At the request of the Magazine Committee, the Rev. John McCleery, B.A., S.T.M. of Newry, has consented to act as sub-editor.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

TO MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE —I have just received a letter from Mrs. Fitzgerald, Boston, Massachusettes, asking me for information regarding the work of our League in Ireland and also making a request for photographs of our Irish Churches. Will any of you who have a photograph you would like to send, let me have it at your earliest convenience.—DOROTHY ANDREWS, Inla, Comber.

* * *

July, 1940, number published on Saturday, June 29th. Copy sent in before 22nd June, will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

* * *

Received anonymous donation of 15/-.

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PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. J, Shaw Brown, 1 Greenmount Avenue, Manse Road, Bangor.

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Half-yearly subscriptions nod due should be sent to the Manager, Rev. A. Davison, Dromore.

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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

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Will our friends who see to the sale of this Magazine, kindly endeavour to get new subscribers.

* * *

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, as such, is not responsible for any opinion or declaration in this Journal, by whomsoever expressed, unless contained in an official document.

BIRTH.

BROWN—May 9th, 1940, at Seaview Nursing Home (Miss Donald, R.G.N., C.M.B.), to May Elizabeth (nee Little), wife of Thomas J. Brown, Press House, Warrenpoint—a daughter.

"By all means follow thy conscience; yet take heed thy conscience is not the conscience of a fool."—Dr. Robert South, 1633-1716. Public Orator of Oxford University, 1660.

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

Annual Meetings.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18th.

2-30 p.m.—The Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians and other Free Christians will meet in the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast.

4-30 p.m.—Remonstrant Synod of Ulster will meet in the First Church.

8 p.m.—A Public Lecture by Mr. H. J. F. Orr in the Central Hall. Subject—"The Early Days of Irish Presbyterianism." Collection in aid of Joint Incidental Fund.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19th.

10-30 a.m.—Communion Service will be administered by the Moderator in the First Church.

11-15 a.m.—Business Meeting of the General Synod in the First Church.

7-30 until 10 p.m.—Conversazione in the Central Hall.

J. D. DAVIES,
Clerk.

ANNUAL

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE,

LARNE,

SATURDAY, 1st JUNE, 1940, at 3 p.m.

Speaker: Rev. R. W. WILDE, M.A., B.Sc., Belfast.

"*Teaching Methods—Old and New.*"

Train ex-BELFAST, 1-30 p.m. Return Trains 6-24 and 7-20 p.m. (York St. Station).

Tickets can be had—Rev. W. HOWARD PAYNE, Railway Station, or Mrs. V. COLVIN, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. W. Eakin, 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

REPORTS.

Ballyhemlin. — The May sermon was preached on the second Sunday. The Rev. J. Barron has used the same text annually during the whole of his ministry—"Remember now thy Creator the days of thy youth." At Tavistock an ancient trust extending back for a century and a half, provided for its continuance there. The meeting - house was tastefully decorated with May flowers for the occasion, and the children sang special hymns. Collection for English Sustentation Fund, £1 19s 8d.

York Street, Belfast. — At the May Communion over 200 partook, and this without any special appeal or visitation, but just the obligation which members feel to be present on that occasion.

All Souls', Belfast. — The announcement is made in the Calendar for May, that the Minister, the Rev. W. Howard Payne has accepted a call from Ballyclare, and that the Installation Service will (D.V.) take place on July 4th.

Mountpottinger Branch Women's League. — The monthly meetings for 1939-40 of the League were brought to a close by the holding of a "Kitchen Shower." During the evening Mrs. Munford and Mrs. Stanley gave humorous readings. Owing to very bad weather conditions, the attendance was small.

Ballycarry. — The Moderator, the Rt. Rev. J. Glynne Davies, of Comber, Co. Down, very kindly responding to a request from the Ballycarry Branch of the British Women's League that he would visit our congregation and preach the annual sermon of the League, paid his welcome visit on the 23rd of April. It was an evening service at the hour of 7 p.m. Had the weather permitted, the Church would have been full, but unfortunately, heavy rain persisted for many hours, and this prevented many who live miles away in outlying districts from attending. Nevertheless there were at least a hundred and fifty persons present. An augmented choir under the skilled leadership of Mr. W. P. Campbell (organist), rendered the hymns with vigour and beauty, accompanied by the hearty singing of the congregation.

The Moderator's sermon was listened to with rapt attention for it was of a superior order. At the close of the service, many declared how greatly they were charmed by the discourse and wished that it had continued for a longer time.

Mr. Davies began by saying that he was proud to be invited to that historic church. (It is the oldest Presbyterian Church in Ireland). The visit of the Moderator and his service will not easily be forgotten.

On Thursday evening, May 2nd, when the members of the Women's League came together to hold their usual meeting, a very pleasant surprise awaited one of their number. This was Mrs. James Hay, whose marriage had recently taken place. It was felt by all the fellow members of the League that such a happy event should not be allowed to pass without some small token of their regard and friendship being handed to her with their best wishes for the future. The minister being present was asked to hand over to Mrs. Hay a handsome tea tray with the best wishes of the League.

Mr. Marsden said that it gave him much pleasure on that occasion to convey to Mrs. Hay the good wishes that went with that small token of their appreciation and regard for her. He himself could testify to her enthusiastic and practical work on behalf of the League They were all very gratified that she was not going away from the district, and that both herself and husband would be members of the congregation.

Downpatrick. — "Stand fast!" was the ringing message, at a critical time in our history, delivered in Downpatrick Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church by the veteran retired minister, Rev. J. Shaw Brown, last Sunday in April. After setting out that the war was not of our making, he said that in 1914, on seeing Antwerp turned into "several different kinds of hell," Rupert Brooke, putting his poetic idealism and literary values into cold storage, wrote, "The

thing God wants of me is to get good at beating Germans." To-day the German policy of racial tyranny was again in action. There were occasions when no alternative was offered but to fight. Once when his soldiers were bottled up by their enemies on a narrow strip of land, with the oncoming tide on one side and a high cliff on the other, the brave Prince of Orange said to them, "Unless you eat the Spaniards, you must swallow the sea!" Unless the Allies succeeded in throwing back the German forces the reign of terrorism would continue, and the British Commonwealth built up during the last 1,000 years, would be destroyed.

Men's League.—The annual meeting of the Belfast Chapter was held in the York St. Hall on April 26, 1940. The present officers were re-elected and the name of the Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc., was added to the committee. Mr. T. A. Logan gave an address on Federal Union which was well given, and of a high standard, to a larger audience than usual. Dr. A. L. Agnew cannot be thanked adequately for the hospitality of himself and his helpers. At the next meeting on May 17th, Mr. E. R. Chambers will speak on "Hostages to Mammon," in the Central Hall, at 8 p.m. Mr. A. Hunter will provide light refreshments.

Young People's League. — The first annual general meeting of the Young People's League was held on 29th April in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast. There was a good attendance. The League Council's report for the year 1939/40 was read and adopted by the meeting. The prime mover in the preliminaries of founding the Y.P.L., says the report, was Mr. Thomas Moore of First Church, and as a mark of regard for Mr. Moore, and in honour of the work which he so willingly undertook, he was invited to take the first annual Church service of the League, which was held on the 21st April, 1940, in All Souls' Church, Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, and at which nearly 200 members and friends from town and country were present. The General Purposes Committee of the Church have intimated that they have given sympathetic consideration to the League's request to be permitted to use the title of the Church as part of our own title, and that the matter will be brought before the General Synod, in due course. Through the kindness of the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association, the headquarters of the League are at The Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast. The President of the League is the Moderator, Rt. Rev. J. Glynne Davies. The following are the Vice-Presidents:—Mrs. Gardiner, B.A. (Holywood); Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., D.D. (York Street); Rev. Felix Holt, B.A. (Ballymoney); Rev. John Mc Cleery, B.A., S.T.M. (Newry); Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc. (First Church); Mr. W. J. Baxter, B.A. (Dromore); Mr. C. J. McKisack (First Church). Each congregation has the right to nominate two young people to act for them on the League Council. At present the following congregations are represented:—All Souls, Ballee, Ballyclare, First Church, Holywood, Mountpottinger, Newry and York Street. It is hoped that more congregations will be represented in future sessions. The following Council members were appointed to act as the Executive Committee:—Mr. A. Corbett, Mountpottinger, Chairman; Mr. J. Shannon, Holywood, Vice-Chairman; Mr. N. Castellano, First Church, Secretary; Mr. R. Caven, Ballee, Asst. Secretary; Miss E. Laird, Ballyclare, Treasurer; Miss W. Nesbitt, York Street, Asst. Treasurer. Commencing in September, 1939, League meetings were held monthly at various Church Halls in the City, with the exception of the February meeting which was held in Holywood. (It is hoped to arrange a few excursions to places of Non-Subscribing Presbyterian interest outside Belfast during the summer months). These meetings have always been very well attended—a source of great encouragement to the League Council—and it is hoped that they have been interesting and instructive. Criticisms and suggestions are invited and may be addressed either to any member of the Council or to the Secretary, Y.P.L., 35, Rosemary Street, Belfast. The League thanks all those who have helped during its first winter session, and particularly, "The Non-Subscribing Pres-

byterian'' for giving considerable space to announcements and reports, the First Church for the generous provision of a room in the Central Hall for Committee meetings, and those members, who, though outside the age limits of ordinary membership, have taken an active interest in its activities. At the general meeting, Rev. McCleery extended a very kind invitation to the League to visit Newry and Warrenpoint congregations, and a trip was arranged for Saturday, 22nd June, leaving Belfast at 2-10 p.m. All friends belonging to the congregation not represented on the League Council (see above) who may wish to join this excursion are requested to write to the Secretary, Y.P.L., 35, Rosemary Street, Belfast. The financial statement for the year 1939/40 was presented by Miss Laird, Hon. Treasurer, and showed a satisfactory position.

Belfast, York Street.—In conformity with the plan to have all necessary work in the church done in time for the Centenary in September an electric blower has been installed for the organ. In the end this will prove an economy and allow us to improve the kitchen where we have entertained so many visitors in past years. The amount now spent in clearing the debt from York Street and rebuilding the property amounts to about £3,000 and visitors are amazed at the splendid Church and Hall behind our somewhat unimpressive front. The front is actually a very fine one of its kind but spoiled by its surroundings. It is generally believed that when better times come as they must, this part of York Street will be rapidly transformed into a fine part of the City. The sum of £830 has now been subscribed of which £500 has already been spent on a new roof leaving only £330 to invest. The bulk of this has been given or collected outside our denomination by our own congregation which has to raise £600 every year in addition, with a stipend alone of £350. Some of our members have still to make their returns but little more can be expected. We earnestly appeal therefore to our friends in the denomination to consider how much depends on what they may be able to do for us. How great a need there is for such a work in the Non-Subscribing Church.

If they only do so and contribute no more than they are accustomed to give time and again to outside causes, this once, to a forward movement in the Non-Subscribing Church we can be sure of one thing that one Church in a key position in Belfast will not need to cause any anxiety about its closing down but will on the contrary be a continued source of that life and strength that is so much required amongst us. We regret that we occupy so much space but the future of a Church is surely as important as any other matter before us to-day.

Dr. Agnew was the guest of honour at the Bangor Rotary Club, on Wednesday, May 15th.

(Second list of Contributions sent direct)—Special collections First Presbyterian Church, £21 13s 9d; Miss E. Carlisle, £2 2s; Miss Hamilton, 5/-; Mrs. H. R. Hill, 5/-; Miss Susan Farzer, £1 1s; Killinchy U.W.L., £2; Mr. S. Shannon, £2 2s; Rev. J. and Mrs. Mc Cleery (Raloo), £1; Mr. T. Moore, £2; Rev. W. Eakin, 10/- (second subscription); Miss Luke, 10/- ;Miss McNinch, £1.

These contributions are only those sent direct up to May 15th making a total with previous list of £257. The amount given by congregations does not include individual subscriptions from members of those churches some of whom have given most generously, particularly in the case of Holywood and First Belfast. The total of the fund is now £830. Miss M. Irvine, £5, in last list should read Mrs. Irvine (Belfast).

Ministers' Conference. — The 341st meeting was held on Monday, May 6th, at ''The Carlton,'' the Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc., being the host.

Taking for his subject Paul and the Historical Jesus, the Rev. F. Munford based his remarks on 2 Cor. v. 16: Yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet, now henceforth know we him so no more, and asked whether this meant that Paul had no longer any interest in the historical Jesus, that even if he had known Christ in the days of His flesh, he would now forget such

knowledge, since he knew Christ as a living Presence within himself.

Killinchy. — The Women's League held their annual service which was taken by Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., D.D., on Sunday, 26th May, 1940, at 3-30 p.m. Special music was rendered by an augmented choir. Soloist: Miss Betty Norman.

First Church, Belfast. — The half-yearly Communion Service was observed on April 21st. We were very glad to see a number of members who are able only occasionally to come amongst us owing to age or infirmity. Members of the Discussion Circle have, in recent weeks, been cleaning the marble memorial tablets in the Church, under the leadership of Mr. J. Laird. Expert advice was taken as to the materials to be used. The work has now been completed, and the result has been greatly to enhance the appearance of these memorials. An interesting experiment was made on April 22nd, in the shape of a Mock Parliament, held in the Central Hall. Members of the First Church formed the "Government" and its supporters, while the "Opposition" was provided by members of the York Street Church. The Rev. R. W. Wilde acted as Speaker, and the Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew as Chairman of Committee. The evening proved very enjoyable. The success of this new venture owes very much to the enthusiasm, organisation, and technical knowledge of Mr. John Radcliffe, who had unofficially "coached" both sides of the House! It is hoped to repeat this experiment occasionally in times to come. The Rosemary Dramatic Society held its annual meeting on April 23rd., when Mr. R. McCrum was re-elected President, the Rev. R. W. Wilde, Vice-President, Mr. A. R. McNeill, Secretary-Treasurer, and Miss Eileen McCafferty, Wardrobe Mistress. The report revealed a very satisfactory state of affairs, and recorded a year of profitable enterprise. Mrs. Adair (Miss Coburn) has been appointed soprano soloist in the Church choir, a position she held some years back before her marriage. It is a pleasure to welcome her back again! The Women's League is now holding weekly Work Meetings on Tuesdays, and is still busily engaged in the making of comforts for men in the Forces. It is desirous of enlisting the help of non-members in this work. Good wishes go out to Miss Allison Kennedy on her recent marriage to Mr. George Philip Bell of Lurgan. Mrs. Bell was for some years a very ardent worker in the Sunday School, until ill-health compelled her retirement last year. It is with great regret that we record the sudden death of Mrs. Martha Montgomery. She was herself a regular attender at Church services, and belonged to a family which has entered very largely into the life of our fellowship, and which is highly respected by all. Our sympathy goes out to them in this time of their loss and sorrow.

Greyabbey. — According to ancient Presbyterian custom, the preparation service for the Communion was held on May 24th (the old Fast Day service). Considering that it is held on a week-night it is always very well attended. Preacher: Rev. J. Barron, of Ballyhemlin.—(Ed.).

Moneyrea—The Sunday School anniversary services were held on Sunday, May 5th, morning and evening. The Meeting-house was nicely decorated for the occasion with flowers by the children under the superintendence of Miss R. Kennedy. The special preacher was the Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc., of the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, whose sermons were very appropriate and inspiring. It was the Children's Day, their singing of the Sunday School hymns and choruses was very good, and credit is due to Mrs. McCartney, the organist, who trained them. The collections were in aid of the Sunday School fund.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor, "The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian."

(Continued from last month's issue).

What do we report? A service attended by two thousand people. And why? Because we assume that Non-Subscribers everywhere will be interested in one of their Churches holding such a service even if they are too indifferent or lazy to attend. A new Gallery in our Hall. Why? Because we assume that some Non-Subscribers will be glad to have some other news than that of a Church closing down. A distinguished orthodox scholar comes to preach for us. We report that because there was a day when such an event would have delighted Non-Subscribers who have always complained that they were isolated. These are the kind of things we report and not a line is sent to please members of our own Church. Even deaths are only reported when the deceased is known to many or has set an example which if it were followed by others would make our Church stronger than it is. Of late we have taken some space certainly. It has been occupied with two things. One with the i nformation that what was a derelict building is now a beautiful Church with nearly £3,000 raised and spent on it for, and not by, Non-Subscribers with a congregation paying over £500 a year to maintain it in stipend and collections alone. If that is not news and news which Non-Subscribers should rejoice to read we can only say it is so much the worse for Non-Subscribers. When Mr. Barnes built his new Church in Newcastle we obtained every scrap of news we could about it. Some of our people sent to Newcastle for copies of local papers. They are put on our notice board and eagerly read. Our Committee spent a morning looking over the plans and admiring and envying all they read. Our people must be different. But when a little space is taken to describe something similar in a smaller way done here where it is more needed Non-Subscribers are not interested. THEY OBJECT. Our space has been occupied with one other thing. The news that unless something which could easily be done is done now that fine Church will be lost. If Non-Subscribers are not interested in that and if the threatened loss of two Churches out of four in the City of Belfast does not concern them and they prefer to read about Round Towers or the songs of Miss Lovely then we can only say that there is no need to look further for the reason why we are as we are.

It is a well known fact that however sane and sensible people are they become utterly foolish in Church matters. That accounts perhaps for the amazing information we have received that a Church with £45 a year from investments is better off than one with £1,000 because it has a small balance in hand or the opinion that a congregation does nothing for itself when obviously hundreds of pounds have been spent by it without going into debt and yet nothing has come from outside. Were it not for this peculiarity of the mind it would be sufficient answer to anyone who objects to space for York Street to point out to them that that Church has more activities and more people and buys more copies than any other and that therefore any ordinary paper would by ordinary sane journalistic practice give space to it even if space were short. But that, Mr. Editor, is the amazing thing. No Church to our knowledge and no contributor has ever lost a line of space because of the space given to us. Where we have taken much we have offered to pay for it either in cash or by increasing the number of copies we buy and your last number sold better because it had twenty pages partly owing to a long letter from me. As that letter was headed "York Street" I presume the critics did not read it. Had they done so they would have seen that York Street was only mentioned in dealing with a matter which concerned every Minister and every Church we have. But what I should like to know is just this. In so far as no one loses any space by what is given to us even if it only concerned the songs sung at our unmentioned socials, what is the real objection to York Street news?

Will one of the critics give us that information in cold print? If they do not want to hear about York Street the remedy is simple. They need not read about it. But is it an attitude likely to encourage a new and large congregation who want to hear about them?

Once before your paper had not room for a report of a service in the Ulster Hall. We were compelled then to start our own paper. The effect on the circulation of the Non-Subscriber you may remember. Loyalty alone made us give up our paper and support the Non-Subscriber again or it might not exist to-day. We shall be loyal still. We are ordering more copies. Some far outside York St. buy extra copies when our reports appear, for friends in England and America and it is plain to a child that that spirit rather than the spirit which objects is one which will build up our Cause wherever it has the opportunity. Would we had more of it.

Yours truly,
A. L. AGNEW.

Sir,—In the address delivered by the Rev. J. Glynne Davies on the occasion of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Comber Unitarian Church on Sunday, 1st March, 1940, it was stated that Mr. James Andrews was co-founder with the builder, this is incorrect as it was his son, Mr. John Andrews, who joined with Mr. Miller. I hope you will be so kind as to find space in your next issue of 'Non-Subscriber' to make this correction, as no doubt address will be entered in records of history of Church, and with conflicting evidence, might cause some confusion for future generations.

Thanking you in anticipation.
Sincerely yours,
E. ANDREWS.
Ardara, Comber,

Dear Mr. Editor,—I beg to state that I derived my information regarding the founding of our Comber Church, from notes supplied to me by the late Rev. Thomas Dunkerley. Mr. Dunkerley, in turn, had received the information contained in the notes from the late Mr. John Miller, J.P., personally. Mr. John Miller and Mr. James Andrews were co-founders of the movement which resulted in the organisation of the congregation, and I feel therefore that I must accept Mr. Miller's evidence as authoritative.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. DAVIES.

Dear Editor,—There has been a splendid response this month to the Fellowship call. The men from Moneyrea Church have given a splendid example to the men from the other congregations. 2/6 each from David Bryce, Wm. Maxwell, Ed. Fisher, Wm. Fisher, Wm. Dugan, H. Frame, J. Frame, Wm. Kennedy, A. Lappin, Miss Lowry (Moneyrea), 2/-; Dromore W.L., 15/-; Mr. and Mrs. W. Patterson, £5; Rev. John Barron, 2/6; Capt. W. J. Hill, £1; Misses Montgomery (All Souls), 10/-. Parcels were received from Killinchy, Mountpottinger, First Church, Belfast. I should like to repeat that I can supply wool to anyone who would knit for the Fellowship men. I am sorry to see that several of our congregations are raising large sums of money for war charities and absolutely ignoring the claims of our own people. The same thing that happened in the last war is happening in this. Some units are getting more comforts than they can use and other units are getting none. The advantage of the Fellowship is that as far as funds will go the individual needs of the men can be satisfied. This month I am appending some extracts from letters showing how widely differing are the needs of the men according to the work they are doing and their own tastes.

It is an old saying that some people cannot see wood for trees. There is plenty of bravery, endurance and initiative amongst our own men. The first of the Comber Church young men to be lost was thrown into the sea when the plane crashed. The one survivor of the plane's crew told how he and Riston Petts swam for hours together until large waves separated them and the survivor was washed ashore. Our second great loss is that of Matthew Wilson who has been missing since April 12th. His name was mentioned in despatches just the previous month.

He had been awarded his air-gunner's badge for which he had qualified before war broke out and he was made corporal. At his own request the suggestion of a commission was ruled out because he wanted to gain experience in organising and directing men. He was not attached to a fighting squadron but when the time for a sudden attack came he was found brave and reliable. One day he was on the usual patrol of the North Sea when the observer saw a German plane very near them. There was no time to turn back and send up a fighter plane and the pilot at once gave the order to defend themselves by attack. During the fight the plane was damaged and bullets pierced the petrol tank and the wireless was out of order too. The job of getting home safely depended on getting the wireless going again and getting instructions as to the way back. Matthew Wilson rose to the occasion. He borrowed silver foil from a cigarette packet and made insulation with it. He was able to get wireless instructions as to bearings and the nearest aerodrome. The petrol just managed to last out and so a plane and four lives were saved for the time being. It is now some comfort to our Women's League branch that they had been able to help to minimise some of the great discomforts endured during the very cold weather in the constant patrol of the North Sea. The Pilot-officer, who is now missing, had also asked Corporal Wilson to be allowed to share in the thanks for one parcel which he had shared. Two other men in France wrote to say they had shared their parcels with men who had none. Fourteen letters of thanks were received during April.

Home Front. — "I take this chance to thank you very much for the presents you sent me. I might add that you made sure to send the best. As I am the only Unitarian here and some of the boys getting parcels from their churches, I felt in the cold, so it makes me very happy to be one of the lucky ones. We are very hard on socks here and they are always very useful. Now that cigs are gone up in price I am very glad of a packet. My wife told me to make sure and thank you very much indeed on her behalf."

France.—"Thank the League for its great kindness—the socks were a god-send and the soap will be very useful too."

Egypt.—"It was indeed a pleasure to receive such a nice letter and of course the cigarettes, which arrived in good condition, and of course cigarettes are our greatest necessity. I always look forward to a packet of smokes from the old country as they are much better than can be procured here."

Scotland R.A.F.—"Thank you very much for the tin of toffee. I have very little more to say but I sincerely hope you enjoy your visit to Larne (Sunday School Conference) in June. The lads in blue aint done so bad for old England."

France — "Thanks for parcel and magazines—they are badly needed over here—as we are sometimes out for hours in the middle of the night. I am now engaged to a girl in Manchester. When we are home in the summer I am thinking of visiting you. I will say goodbye, until I hear from you again."

France—"Please forgive me for not answering your letter sooner. I hurt my hand and could not write — but please do write again to me."

Homely letters, showing the great desire for touch and news of the old country. Surely it is worth while to join in our Fellowship.

EDITH DAVIES,
Hon. Fellowship Secretary.

P.S.—Unitarian men in the forces are now coming over here. At present I have the names of two—one in Belfast —the other is at Ballykinlar. I should be very glad to have offers of hospitality for them.

S. & J. HEWITT

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REVIEWS.

"Religion in the Light of Psychology," by Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc. Price 1/-. Lindsey Press.

"The book is an expansion of a short series of addresses extemporaneously delivered at the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, in the winter of 1939." It is prefaced by a useful analysis of its contents: (1) A Faith that grows; (2) Religion and Thought; (3) Religion and Feeling; (4) Religion and Will; (5) A well-balanced Faith. The author realises that the term "religion" is "notoriously hard to define." "The same might be said of Life, or Growth, or Love, or Beauty." "By 'religion' here, we mean broadly what religious people in general mean by it." Psychology "as to its root meaning is considered. Each thinks, feels, wills, three modes of the mind's working, 'willing' " leading to action. Religion is presented in this little book in the light of these three. Jesus defined "whole duty of man, as Love with heart, soul and mind and strength." To put it in another way, intelligence, emotional life, practical activities are all to be dedicated to God. "When a man loses faith altogether he ceases to grow." "Peter Pan may be lovable enough on the stage; in real life he is a tragedy." Ideal is "a full-grown man, stature of the fulness of Christ." Why the disinclination to think? Only a religion based upon thought can stand! Force of habit. Well-known story of Sir Walter Scott and nervous classmate, to whom the habit was helpful, to finger a certain button upon his waistcoat, when having to speak out in class. In an impish mood, Walter Scott removed the button, and the poor little chap was lost without it. The psychology of this and its application are detailed. A survey of the mental habits of the various denominations is given in a masterly style in keeping with the rest of the book which is well worth the money.

"The Way of Prayer," Lindsey Press. Price 6d.

A concise manual of Daily Prayers and Readings, exceedingly useful for busy people, and family purposes, to keep the influence of religion in daily life. We are glad to see it.

OBITUARY.

Mr. J. Martin.

The Mountpottinger congregation regret to record the loss of another member in the person of Mr. John Martin, who passed away on April 29th after a short illness. For the past few years the deceased had not been in the best of health following a serious breakdown, but he had whenever possible maintained his attendance at service.

A man of retiring disposition Mr. Martin did not take much part in matters connected with the congregation's activities although for a period he served on the committee.

Before business entailed residence in Belfast Mr. Martin resided in the Rademon district where he was brought up and to the last retained his membership with our congregation in that area; whenever health permitted he was always present at the half-yearly Communion Services.

Interment took place at Rademon, on May 1st, when Rev. J. J. Magill, B.A., conducted the service. At the house a short service was undertaken by Rev. F. Munford, B.A. To the widow and three surviving daughters we extend sincere sympathy.

— The Unitarian and Free Christian Men's League.

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